THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Extension works relating to runways are generally carried out by Airports Authority of India (AAI) on the basis of firm demand from Airlines. No such demand exists or has been received for Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoli International Airport, Guwahati.

(b) and (c) During the last Haj operations at Kolkata airport in February 2005, only on two occasions Haj Pilgrims from Guwahati had to wait for departure to Guwahati from Kolkata not because of inadequate size of runway at Guwahati airport but due to other operational reasons of the concerned airlines.

Revision in Commission to Agents of AI

3409. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India suffered a huge loss due to suspension of sale of its tickets by the Agents of Air India from 1st April, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have now agreed to to revise the Commission and also agreed to most of the demands of the Agents of Air India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Air India has not suffered any loss due to the suspension of sale of tickets by a section of the Agents of Air India *w.e.f.* 1st April, 2005 as a large number of Agents have not joined the boycott and the flights to West bound destinations have operated almost to full capacity.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Establishment of new airports

†3410. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain State Governments have sought permission to establish new airports in view of the increasing number of tourists;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the total expenditure likely to be incurred on this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A number of cities and towns have been proposed by some State Governments for construction of new airports such as Pakyong (Sikkim), Chiethu (Nagaland), Mopa (Goa), Chakan & Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra), Ludhiana (Punjab), Ajmer (Rajasthan), Gulbarga, Bellary & Bijapur (Karnataka), Kannur (Kerala) and Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh).

(c) So far, Government has approved construction of Greenfield Airports at Bangalore and Hyderabad to be constructed by the respective Joint Venture Companies. The cost of the projects is currently estimated approximately Rs. 1400 crores each.

Availability of aeroplanes in comparison to the passengers

†3411. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of aeroplanes is much less in comparison to the demands of the passengers in the country;

(b) if so, the number of new aeroplanes operationalised during the last five years; and

(c) the number of aeroplanes available in the country at present and the average daily operationalisation of the aeroplanes out of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) During last years, passenger traffic has grown approximately by 24% which has given rise to the need for increasing aircraft capacity of scheduled operators.

(b) The number of aeroplanes inducted by scheduled airlines during the last five years is 99.

(c) The number of the aeroplanes available in the country at present with scheduled airlines is 184, out of which on an average 168 aeroplanes are planned for daily operations.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.